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# The Covert Computer: A Pico in From the Cold

by S.F. Tomajczyk

*Intelligence agencies in the U.S. have recently discovered the briefcase computer. In this account our intrepid correspondent reveals what he's learned about the unique advantages—and limitations—of putting picos to work in the field of covert operations.*

*From Nathan Hale's covert operation in the Revolutionary War to the breaking of the Japanese code at Midway in World War II, America's security and safety have relied directly on the courage and collective intellect of her intelligence personnel.*

President Ronald Reagan  
May 23, 1984

**I**t was a dark and stormy night. A man stood silently in the shadows of an alley. He carefully scanned the street and side-

walk. Satisfied that no one was watching him, he turned up the lapels of his trench coat, shoved his hands deep into the large pockets, and walked quickly across the street toward a lighted telephone booth.

Safely inside with the door shut behind him, he picked up the receiver, dropped a quarter into the slot and carefully dialed a number. The phone on the other end rang once, twice, three times. Suddenly a loud, static hum greeted his ear. He looked around once more before opening his trench

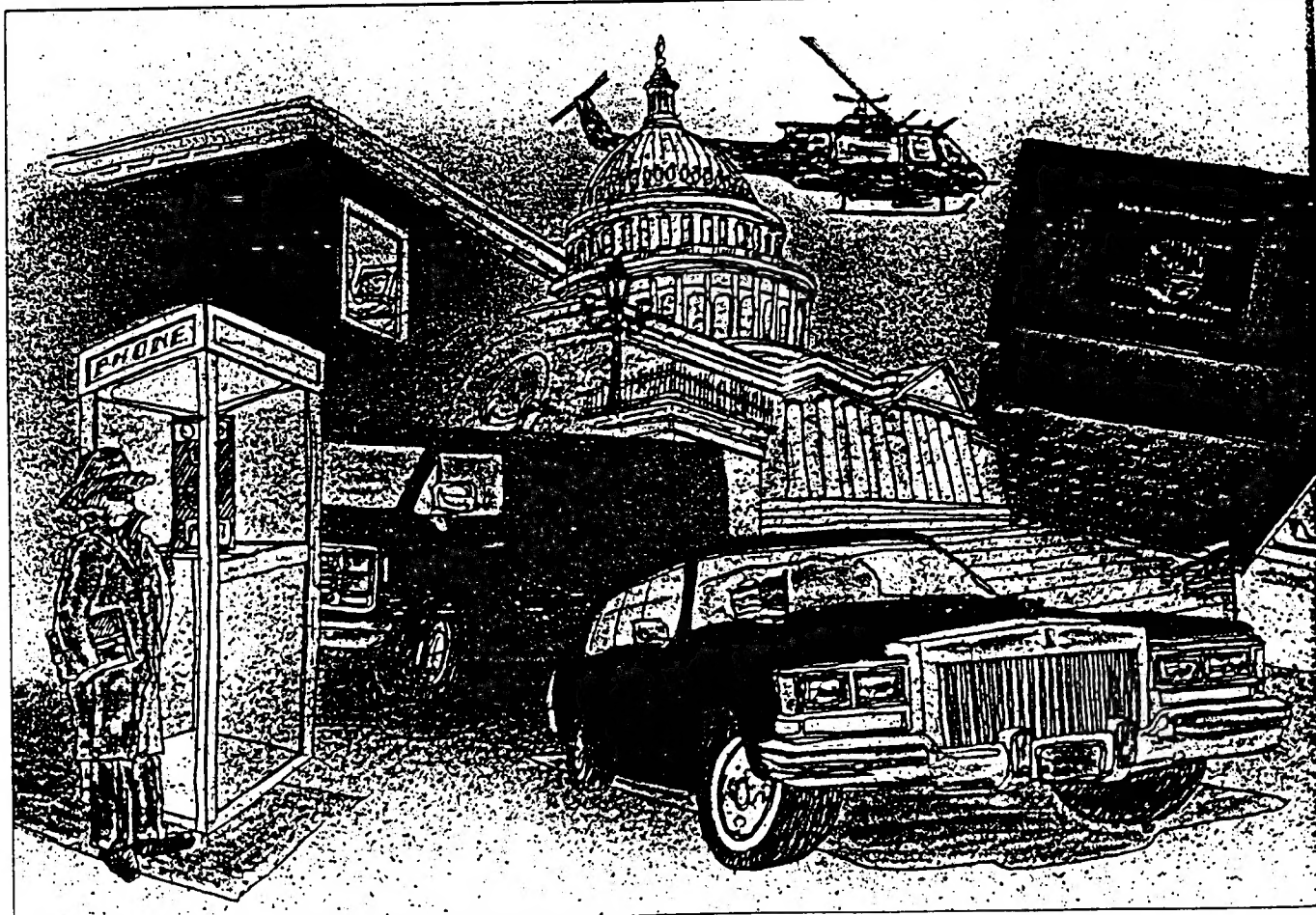


Illustration by Robert Dukette